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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1.   A method in a data processing system for sharing text in an electronic book, the method comprising:
     receiving a user input selecting the text from the electronic book to form selected text; and
     automatically sending the selected text to a designated set of recipients in response to receiving the user input selecting the text.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
     displaying a list wherein the designated set of recipients is selected from the list.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the selected text is highlighted text.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the highlighted text is text in a different color from unselected text, bolded text, and text with a different font type from unselected text.

5.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
     storing the highlighted text in a data structure.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein data structure is a download file.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the text is a notated passage of text in the electronic book.

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8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the text is a highlighted passage of text in the electronic book.

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9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the sending step sends the highlighted text to the designated set of recipients using a communications link.

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10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the sending step sends the highlighted text to the designated set of recipients in an electronic mail message.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the highlighted text is located in a body of the electronic mail message.

12.   The method of claim 10, wherein the highlighted text is located in an attachment attached to the electronic mail message.

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13.   A method in a data processing system for sharing highlighted text in an electronic book, the method comprising:

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comprising:
    receiving a first user input selecting the highlighted text from the electronic book;
    displaying a list of recipients;
    receiving a second user input selecting a designated set of recipients from the list of recipients; and
    sending the highlighted text to the designated set of recipients.

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1   14.   A method in a data processing system for sharing
2   text in an electronic book, the method comprising:
3   receiving selected text from at least one electronic
4   book through a communications link;
5   sorting the selected text using a selection criteria
6   to form sorted text;
7   displaying the sorted text; and
8   responsive to a user input selecting at least a
9   portion of the sorted text being displayed, highlighting
10 portions of the electronic book based on the user input.

15.   The method of claim 14, wherein retrieving step
retrieves the highlighted text for the electronic book
from another user using a communications link.

16.   The method of claim 14, wherein selection criteria
is used to sort and group the selected text.

17.   The method of claim 14, wherein the selection
criteria includes at least one of popularity, name of a
3   user originating text within the selected text, and
4   subject matter of portions of text within the selected
5   text.

1   18.   The method of claim 14, wherein the selected text
2   includes passages from at least one electronic book.

1   19.   The method of claim 14, wherein the selected text
2   includes annotations made by a user.

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1   20. The method of claim 14, wherein the selection
2   criteria is received from a user input.

1   21. The method of claim 14, wherein the selection
2   criteria is received with the selected text.

1   22. The method of claim 14, wherein the sorted text
2   excludes a portion of the selected text.

1   23. A data processing system for sharing text in an
2   electronic book, the data processing system comprising:
3   receiving means for receiving a user input selecting
4   the text from the electronic book; and
5   sending means for automatically sending the
6   highlighted text to the designated set of recipients in
7   response to receiving the user input selecting the text.

     24. A data processing system for sharing highlighted
     text in an electronic book, the method comprising:
         receiving means for receiving a first user input
4   selecting the highlighted text from the electronic book;
5   displaying means for displaying a list of
6   recipients;
7   receiving means for receiving a second user input
8   selecting a designated set of recipients from the list of
9   recipients; and
10   sending means for sending the highlighted text to
11   the designated set of recipients.

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25. A data processing system for sharing text in an
electronic book, a data processing system comprising:

    receiving means for receiving selected text from at
least one electronic book through a communications link;

    receiving means for receiving selection criteria for
the selected text;

    sorting means for sorting the selected text with
respect to the selection criteria to form sorted text;
and

    displaying means for displaying the sorted text.

26. A data processing system comprising:

    a bus system;

    a communications unit connected to the bus system;

    a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the
memory includes as set of instructions; and

    a processing unit connected to the bus system,
wherein the processing unit executes the set of
instructions to receive a user input selecting the text
from the electronic book; and automatically send the
highlighted text to the designated set of recipients in
response to receiving the user input selecting the text.

27. A computer program product in a computer readable
medium for sharing highlighted text in an electronic
book, the computer program product comprising:

    first instructions for receiving a user input
selecting the text from the electronic book; and

    second instructions for automatically sending the
highlighted text to the designated set of recipients in
response to receiving the user input selecting the text.